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10/646,131	08/22/2003	Eric W. Patterson	60001.0262US01/MS303916.1	8885

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EXAMINER

PATEL, MANGLESH M

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2178

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application filed on August 22, 2003.
2. This Action is Non-Final.
3. Claims 1-43 are pending. Claims 1, 10, 17, 25, 32, 37 and 43 are independent claims.

Drawings

4. The examiner has accepted the Drawings filed on August 22, 2003.

Specification

5. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it exceeds 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

7. Claims 1-16 and 25-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bauchot (U.S. Pub 2001/0007988, filed Dec 6, 2000).

Regarding Independent claim 1, Bauchot discloses *a method in a computer*

system for automatically creating a list in an electronic spreadsheet, comprising the steps of:

- *Receiving a user request for selecting a cell range in the electronic spreadsheet for displaying data, the cell range including one or more cells in one or more columns (See Fig 2A & paragraphs 8-13 & 40, wherein a range summary cell is defined by an address in response to a user request. The displayed data is represented by the summary information within the cell. In addition the cell range includes rows and columns);*
- *Identifying a list range for the selected cell range in the electronic spreadsheet (See Fig 3A & paragraph 50, wherein the list range associated by the cell range is identified by defining a named range. By identifying the list range it is creating a table with the specified cell range defined by the user therefore the named range is used to define the table based on the cells);*
- *Determining a header row for the list range (See Fig 3A & paragraphs 50-60, wherein the country, country revenue, branch and branch revenue represent a header row within the defined list range);*
- *Generating a border for surrounding the list range to create the list (paragraph 64, wherein a border line is generated to identify the range associated with the range summary cell. The limitations of claim 1 describe the creation of a table that is clearly disclosed by Bauchot, with*

headers, cell ranges used to define the list or table. In addition generating a border to distinguish a table within a spreadsheet is well known).

Regarding Dependent claim 2, Bauchot discloses *wherein identifying a list range for the selected cell range in the electronic spreadsheet comprises:*

- *Determining the number of cells in the selected cell range (paragraph 10, wherein the number of cells in the selected cell range are defined by the cell address);*
- *If the selected cell range contains two or more cells, then identifying the list range as the selected cell range (paragraph 10 & 11, wherein the list range is associated with the cell summary range, and they are a function of each other);*
- *And if the selected cell range contains exactly one cell, then identifying the list range based on the location of the cell in a current region of the electronic spreadsheet (paragraph 10 & 11, wherein based on the selected cell address a list range is identified based on the current cell address).*

Regarding Dependent claim 3, Bauchot discloses *wherein determining a header row for the list range comprises:*

- *Determining whether the list range includes a field name for each column in the cell range (See Fig 3A & paragraph 55, wherein the list or table*

Art Unit: 2178

includes a field name in the column within the cell range, in this case the countries);

- *And if the identified list range does not include any field names, then automatically generating a field name for each column in the cell range* (See Fig 3C-D, wherein the list range doesn't include a field name in A4, however in 3D a field name is automatically generated in the column within the cell range, shown as United Kingdom).

Regarding Dependent claim 4, Bauchot discloses *wherein each field name is unique* (See Figure 3A, wherein A2 is USA and A5 is United Kingdom, therefore each field name is unique).

Regarding Dependent claim 5, Bauchot discloses *wherein the list range includes user-generated data* (See figures 3A-D, wherein the list or tables include user generated data that includes information pertaining to the revenue prior to calculating a total).

Regarding Dependent claim 6, Bauchot discloses *wherein the list range includes a blank row for inserting data* (See figure 2A, wherein the table includes blank rows for inserting data).

Regarding Dependent claim 7, Bauchot discloses:

- *Determining whether the selected cell range includes a user total row for*

calculating a plurality of aggregation functions for the user-generated data
(See Fig 3A, wherein a total is calculated therefore representing a
aggregation function for the user-generated data shown as revenue
information);

- *And if the selected cell range includes a user total row, then excluding the user total row from the list range* (See figure 3A, wherein the user total row shown below D8 is excluded from the list range).

Regarding Dependent claim 8, Bauchot discloses *wherein the user total row is one row adjacent to the bottom of the at list range* (See figures 3A-D, wherein the total row is adjacent to the bottom of the list range).

Regarding Dependent claim 9, Bauchot discloses *wherein the user total row comprises at least one cell for calculating the plurality of aggregation functions* (See figure 3A, wherein the cell A8 represents the total row that includes one cell for calculating the aggregation function relating to the country revenue).

Regarding Independent claim 10, Bauchot discloses *a method for automatically expanding a list in an electronic spreadsheet, the method comprising:*

- *Determining that at least one previously blank newly edited cell is*

adjacent to the list (See Abstract & figure 2A, wherein a column or row is added or removed from the cell named range, therefore a cell adjacent to the list is present);

- *And automatically expanding the list to include the at least one previously blank newly edited cell (See Abstract, wherein the list is automatically expanded to include the blank cell).*

Regarding Dependent claim 11, Bauchot discloses *wherein automatically expanding the list to include the at least one previously blank newly edited cell comprises automatically expanding the list to include a new column containing the at least one previously blank newly edited cell (See Abstract, wherein expanding the list includes adding a new column that comprises a new cell).*

Regarding Dependent claim 12, Bauchot discloses *wherein automatically expanding the list to include the at least one previously blank newly edited cell comprises automatically expanding the list to include a new row containing the at least one previously blank newly edited cell (See Abstract, wherein expanding the list includes adding a new row that comprises a new cell).*

Regarding Dependent claim 13, Bauchot discloses *wherein determining that at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to the list further comprises:*

Art Unit: 2178

- *Determining that the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to a header row in the list, the header row comprising at least one field name (See figure 2A & paragraph 40, wherein cell A2 is the blank newly edited cell adjacent to the header row in the list and it contains at least one field);*
- *And determining that the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to a data row in the list, the data row comprising at least one cell containing data (See figure 2A & paragraph 40, wherein cells B7-H7 represent the blank newly edited cells adjacent to the data row above within the list).*

Regarding Dependent claim 14, Bauchot discloses:

- *If the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to a header row in the list, then determining whether a data entry in the at least one previously blank newly edited cell duplicates an existing field name in the header row in the list (paragraphs 96 & 97, wherein a new cell adjacent to the header row within the table is checked for duplicate data upon the field);*
- *If the data entry in the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is identical to an existing field name in the header row in the list, then changing the data entry to a unique field name (paragraphs 96 & 97,*

Art Unit: 2178

wherein identical information within a newly edited cell is replaced by unique field name);

- *If the data entry in the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is not identical to an existing field name in the header row in the list, then assigning the data entry as a field name for the new column* (paragraphs 96 & 97, wherein the data is accepted if not identical to the field name);
- *And if the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to a data row in the list, then automatically generating a field name for the new column* (paragraphs 50-56, wherein a field name is automatically generated for blank newly edited cells that are adjacent to the data row within the table).

Regarding Dependent claim 15, Bauchot discloses *wherein determining that at least one previously blank previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to the list comprises determining that the previously blank newly edited cell is to a right side of the list* (See figures 3A-D, wherein the blank newly edited cell is to the right side of the list).

Regarding Dependent claim 16, Bauchot discloses *wherein the list is structured data* (See figure 3A, wherein the list or table holds structured data).

Regarding Independent claim 25, Bauchot discloses *a display device having rendered thereon a spreadsheet including structured data, comprising:*

- *A list range for displaying data in one or more columns (See Fig 3A & paragraph 50, wherein the list range associated by the cell range is identified by defining a named range. By identifying the list range it is creating a table with the specified cell range defined by the user therefore the named range is used to define the table based on the cells);*
- *A header row for identifying at least one column in the list range (See Fig 3A & paragraphs 50-60, wherein the country, country revenue, branch and branch revenue represent a header row within the defined list range);*
- *And a border for surrounding the list range (paragraph 64, wherein a border line is generated to identify the range associated with the range summary cell).*

Regarding Dependent claim 26, Bauchot discloses *wherein the structured data further comprises:*

- *An insert row following the list range for inserting data (See figure 2A & paragraph 40, wherein a row for inserting user data within the table is shown);*
- *A total row for entering a plurality of aggregation functions for the data displayed in the list range (See Figure 2A, wherein a total row is displayed from cell A6 to H6);*
- *And a filter control for each column in the list range for filtering the*

displayed data (See figure 2A & paragraph 40, wherein a filter row for each column in the table for the data is displayed).

Regarding Dependent claim 27, Bauchot discloses *wherein the insert row comprises an indicator for identifying an initial cell in the insert row* (See figure 4 & paragraphs 73-76, wherein the insert row includes an indicator for identifying the cell in the row).

Regarding Dependent claim 28, Bauchot discloses *wherein the filter control automatically applied to subsequent columns added to the list range* (paragraph 44, wherein a filter control is automatically applied to the columns added to the table).

Regarding Dependent claim 29, Bauchot discloses *wherein the border comprises a handle for manually resizing the structured data* (paragraphs 42 & 64, wherein borders are resized).

Regarding Dependent claim 30, Bauchot discloses *wherein the structured data has an active state and an inactive state* (paragraph 43, wherein the data within the table has an active and inactive state).

Regarding Dependent claim 31, Bauchot discloses *wherein the insert row and the filter control are invisible when the structured data is in the inactive state*

(paragraphs 41, 42 & 44, wherein the tabs are invisible when the structured data is in the inactive state).

Regarding Independent claim 32, Bauchot discloses *a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instruction for performing a method for displaying an automatically created list in an electronic spreadsheet, comprising the steps of:*

- *Receiving a user request for selecting a cell range in the electronic spreadsheet, the cell range including one or more cells in one or more columns for displaying data (See Fig 2A & paragraphs 8-13 & 40, wherein a range summary cell is defined by an address in response to a user request. The displayed data is represented by the summary information within the cell. In addition the cell range includes rows and columns);*
- *Identifying a list range for the selected cell range in the electronic spreadsheet (See Fig 3A & paragraph 50, wherein the list range associated by the cell range is identified by defining a named range. By identifying the list range it is creating a table with the specified cell range defined by the user therefore the named range is used to define the table based on the cells);*
- *Determining a header row for the list range (See Fig 3A & paragraphs 50-60, wherein the country, country revenue, branch and branch revenue represent a header row within the defined list range);*

- *Generating a border for surrounding the list range to create the list and displaying the automatically created list on the display device (paragraph 64, wherein a border line is generated to identify the range associated with the range summary cell. The limitations of claim 32 describe the creation of a table that is clearly disclosed by Bauchot, with headers, cell ranges used to define the list or table. In addition generating a border to distinguish a table within a spreadsheet is well known).*

Regarding Dependent claim 33, Bauchot discloses *wherein identifying a list range for the selected cell range in the electronic spreadsheet comprises:*

- *Determining the number of cells in the selected cell range (paragraph 10, wherein the number of cells in the selected cell range are defined by the cell address);*
- *If the selected cell range contains two or more cells, then identifying the list range as the selected cell range (paragraph 10 & 11, wherein the list range is associated with the cell summary range, and they are a function of each other);*
- *And if the selected cell range contains exactly one cell, then identifying the list range based on the location of the cell in a current region of the electronic spreadsheet (paragraph 10 & 11, wherein based on the selected cell address a list range is identified based on the current cell address).*

Regarding Dependent claim 34, Bauchot discloses *wherein determining a header row for the list range comprises:*

- *Determining whether the list range includes a field name for each column in the cell range*(See Fig 3A & paragraph 55, wherein the list or table includes a field name in the column within the cell range, in this case the countries);
- *And if the identified list range does not include any field names, then automatically generating a field name for each column in the cell range* (See Fig 3C-D, wherein the list range doesn't include a field name in A4, however in 3D a field name is automatically generated in the column within the cell range, shown as United Kingdom).

Regarding Dependent claim 35, Bauchot discloses *wherein the list range comprises a blank row for inserting data* (See figure 2A, wherein the table includes blank rows for inserting data).

Regarding Dependent claim 36, Bauchot discloses:

- *Determining whether the selected cell range includes a user total row for calculating a plurality of aggregation functions for the user-generated data* (See Fig 3A, wherein a total is calculated therefore representing a aggregation function for the user-generated data shown as revenue information);

- *And if the selected cell range includes a total row, then excluding the user total row from the list range (See figure 3A, wherein the user total row shown below D8 is excluded from the list range).*

Regarding Independent claim 37, Bauchot discloses *a method for automatically expanding a list in an electronic spreadsheet, comprising the steps of:*

- *Determining that at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to the list (See Abstract & figure 2A, wherein a column or row is added or removed from the cell named range, therefore a cell adjacent to the list is present);*
- *And automatically expanding the list to include the at least one previously blank newly edited cell (See Abstract, wherein the list is automatically expanded to include the blank cell).*

Regarding Dependent claim 38, Bauchot discloses *wherein automatically expanding the list to include the at least one previously blank newly edited cell comprises automatically expanding the list to include a new column containing the at least one previously blank newly edited cell (See Abstract, wherein expanding the list includes adding a new column that comprises a new cell).*

Regarding Dependent claim 39, Bauchot discloses *wherein automatically expanding the list to include the at least one previously blank newly edited cell*

comprises automatically expanding the list to include a new row containing the at least one previously blank newly edited cell (See Abstract, wherein expanding the list includes adding a new row that comprises a new cell).

Regarding Dependent claim 40, Bauchot discloses *wherein data range references in cells in existing list rows are automatically adjusted to include cells in the new column (paragraphs 9-18, wherein existing rows include cells with new columns).*

Regarding Dependent claim 41, Bauchot discloses *wherein data range references in cells in existing list columns are automatically updated to include cells in the new row (paragraphs 9-18, wherein existing columns include cells with new rows).*

Regarding Dependent claim 42, Bauchot discloses *wherein determining that at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to the list further comprises:*

- *Determining that the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to a header row in the list, the header row comprising at least one field name (See figure 2A & paragraph 40, wherein cell A2 is the blank newly edited cell adjacent to the header row in the list and it contains at least one field);*
- *Determining that the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is*

adjacent to a data row in the list, the data row comprising at least one cell containing data (See figure 2A & paragraph 40, wherein cells B7-H7 represent the blank newly edited cells adjacent to the data row above within the list);

- If the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to a header row in the list, then determining whether a data entry in the at least one previously blank newly edited cell duplicates an existing field name in the header row in the list (paragraphs 96 & 97, wherein a new cell adjacent to the header row within the table is checked for duplicate data upon the field);*
- If the data entry in the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is identical to an existing field name in the header row in the list, then changing the data entry to a unique field name (paragraphs 96 & 97, wherein identical information within a newly edited cell is replaced by unique field name);*
- If the data entry in the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is not identical to an existing field name in the header row in the list, then assigning the data entry as a field name for the new column (paragraphs 96 & 97, wherein the data is accepted if not identical to the field name);*
- And if the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to a data row in the list, then automatically generating a field name for the new*

column (paragraphs 50-56, wherein a field name is automatically generated for blank newly edited cells that are adjacent to the data row within the table).

8. Claims 17-24 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Abdalla (U.S. 6,625,499, filed Jan 5, 2001).

Regarding Independent claim 17, Abdalla discloses *a method for automatically validating data in a list in an electronic spreadsheet, the method comprising:*

- *Determining a data type of data entered into the list* (See Abstract, wherein the data characteristics of the entered data within the table is determined);
- *Comparing the data type of the data entered into the list to a list data type* (column 3, lines 20-30, wherein the data types are verified and validated, therefore they are compared to a list data type);
- *If the data type of the data entered into the list does not match the list data type, then determining that the data type of the data entered into the list is invalid* (column 4, lines 20-40, wherein data type is considered invalid if the validation fails to identify the data with the data list);
- *If the data type of the data entered into the list matches the list data type for the list, then determining the validity of the data entered into the list based on the data type* (column 4, lines 20-40, wherein validation is performed on the data if the list and entered data match);

- *And if the data entered into the list is invalid based on the data type, then displaying an error indicator (column 4, lines 20-40, wherein the user is prevented from entering the data type if it is invalid, it is inherent that an error would be indicated, this is design choice to display an error or prevent the user from entering invalid data types).*

Regarding Dependent claim 18, Bauchot discloses *wherein comparing the data type of the data entered into the list to a list data type comprises comparing the data type to a list data type for at least one cell in the list* (See figure 3, wherein reference numeral 204 represents the user specified cell range within the list for comparing the data type).

Regarding Dependent claim 19, Bauchot discloses *wherein comparing the data type of the data entered into the list to a list data type comprises comparing the data type to a list data type for at least one row in the list* (See figure 3, wherein reference numeral 204 represents the user specified row range within the list for comparing the data type).

Regarding Dependent claim 20, Bauchot discloses *wherein the data is entered by typing the data into an active cell in the list* (See figure 1A & column 3, lines 5-20, wherein data is entered into an active cell within the table).

Regarding Dependent claim 21, Bauchot discloses *wherein the data is entered by pasting the data into a plurality of cells in the list, wherein the plurality of cells comprise an active cell and at least one inactive cell* (See figure 1A & column 3, lines 5-40, wherein the data is pasted within the cell list containing active and inactive cells).

Regarding Dependent claim 22, Bauchot discloses *wherein determining that the data type of the data entered into the list is invalid comprises displaying a data validation alert for the active cell in the list* (column 4, lines 10-50, wherein invalid data is determined by validation for the active cell).

Regarding Dependent claim 23, Bauchot discloses *wherein determining that the data type of the data entered into the list is invalid comprises displaying an error indicator in the at least one invalid cell in the list* (column 4, lines 20-40, wherein the user is prevented from entering invalid data based on the validation rules, however it is inherent that an error is indicated this is matter of design choice).

Regarding Dependent claim 24, Bauchot discloses *wherein determining the validity of the data entered into the list based on the data type for the list comprises determining that a data value is invalid for the list data type* (column 4, lines 20-65, wherein based on the defined rule for the validity of data types comprises determining that data is invalid for the list type).

Regarding Independent claim 43, Bauchot discloses *a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for automatically validating a list in an electronic spreadsheet, the method comprising the steps of:*

- *Determining a data type of data entered into the list*(See Abstract, wherein the data characteristics of the entered data within the table is determined);
- *Comparing the data type of the data entered into the list to a list data type*(column 3, lines 20-30, wherein the data types are verified and validated, therefore they are compared to a list data type);
- *If the data type of the data entered into the list does not match the list data type, then determining that the data type of the data entered into the list is invalid and displaying a data validation alert*(column 4, lines 10-50, wherein invalid data is determined by validation for the active cell);
- *If the data type of the data entered into the list matches the list data type for the list, then determining the validity of the data entered into the list based on the data type*(column 4, lines 20-40, wherein validation is performed on the data if the list and entered data match);
- *And if the data entered into the list is invalid based on the data type, then displaying an error indicator*(column 4, lines 20-40, wherein the user is prevented from entering the data type if it is invalid, it is inherent that an

error would be indicated, this is design choice to display an error or prevent the user from entering invalid data types).

References to specific columns, figures or lines should not be limiting in any way. The entire reference provides disclosure related to the claimed invention.

Conclusion

Other Prior Art Cited

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Voshell (U.S. Pub 2002/0169799) discloses "Systems And Methods Providing Dynamic Spreadsheet Functionality"
- Strong (U.S. 6,167,523) discloses "Method And Apparatus For Forms Data Validation And Processing Control"
- Bauchot (U.S. Pub 2002/0103825) discloses "Method And System In An Electronic Spreadsheet For Persistently Filling By Samples A Range Of Cells"
- Breuer (U.S. Pub 2002/0055954) discloses "Methods And Systems For Inputting Data Into Spreadsheet Documents"

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Manglesh M. Patel whose telephone number is (571)

Art Unit: 2178

272-5937. The examiner can normally be reached on M,F 8:30-6:00 T,TH 8:30-3:00
Wed 8:30-7:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen S. Hong can be reached on (571)272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Manglesh M. Patel

Patent Examiner

November 22, 2005


CESAR PAULA
PRIMARY EXAMINER